



Department of Justice

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ALABAMA MAN ARRESTED ON SEX CHARGES INVOLVING A MINOR

Jacksonville, FL - Acting U.S. Attorney James R. Klindt, Michael J. Folmar, Special Agent in Charge of the Jacksonville Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Bill McCollum, Florida Attorney General, today announced the arrest on a two count indictment of Bobby Joe Hibbs, age 57, of Huntsville, Alabama. Count one charges Hibbs with interstate travel with the intent to engage in sexual activity with a minor. Count two charges Hibbs with interstate transportation of child pornography. If convicted Hibbs faces a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years' and up to life imprisonment on count one and a mandatory minimum of five years' and up to 20 years' imprisonment on count two.

Hibbs was arrested just outside Huntsville this afternoon and he will be transported to the Federal Court in Huntsville to make his initial appearance this afternoon.

"This case clearly demonstrates how vulnerable our children are while using the internet and I commend the teamwork of the U.S. Attorney's office and other investigating entities," said Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum. "These individuals who prey on our children steal their innocence and abuse their trust. My office will continue to work together with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to protect our youngest citizens from the terrible crimes of solicitation and child pornography."

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the CyberCrime Unit of the Florida Attorney General's Office. This matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The Florida Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit is a member of the North Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, a federally funded program working nationwide to educate and support law enforcement to stop these crimes, and the FBI Cyber Taskforce in Jacksonville.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.
